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THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 34 ■ NO. 1 ■ ISSUE NO. 360 ■ January 5, 2019 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 4123 Broadway, PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94611

RCPC Town Hall Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 17, Rockridge Branch Library, Upstairs Meeting Room

~ Agenda ~

1. Public presentation and discussion of development plans for the California College of the Arts (CCA) Oakland campus. College management and its development associates will discuss current planning status and answer audience questions and concerns.

2. Vote by Rockridge Neighbors on bylaw changes proposed by the RCPC board of directors to clarify the criteria for eligibility for membership in RCPC. Bring your ID showing your Rockridge address. See further details below and in the November 2018 Rockridge News, or at rockridge.org.

Voting: At the Town Hall meeting of the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), to be held Thursday, January 17, 2019, members will be able to vote on a proposed amendment to Section 5.1 of the RCPC Bylaws ("Eligibility for Membership").

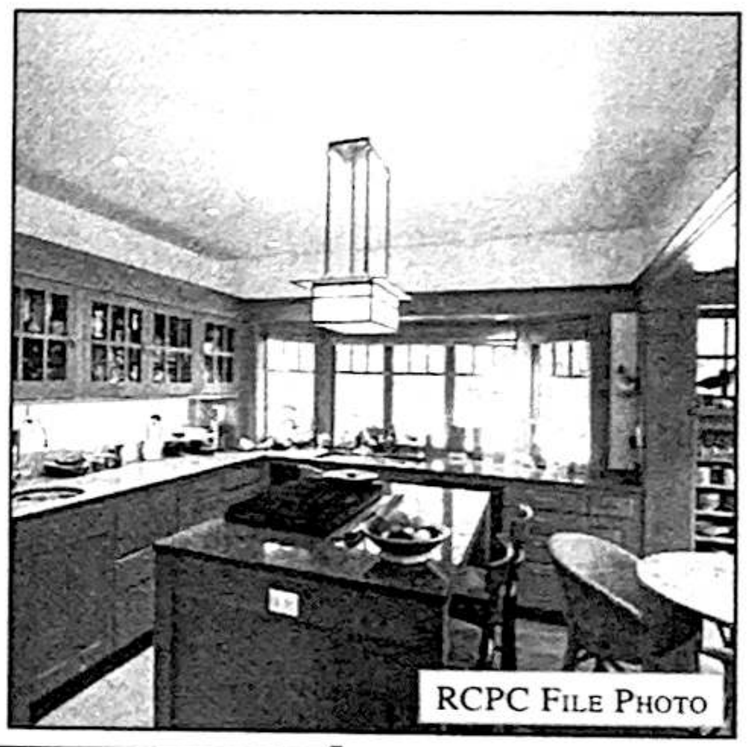
Ballots will be cast between 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., in the upstairs meeting room of the Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue, Oakland. To cast a ballot, a person must be at least 18 years of age and be able to document residency within the RCPC boundaries.

RCPC Kitchen Tour on Tap for 2019

The 2019 Rockridge Kitchen Tour is coming in early autumn; watch this space for news. The Kitchen Tour is the Rockridge Community Planning Council's main fundraiser. But, more than that, it's a community-wide party; a chance for homeowners, architects, contractors, and craftspeople to show off the amazing kitchens they've created; and a source of inspiration for tour guests.

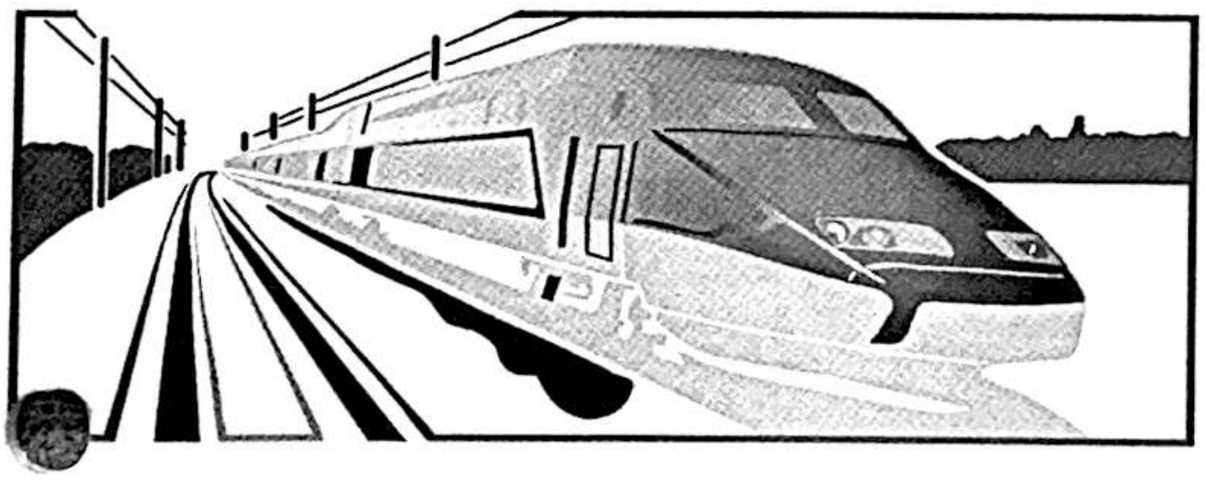
In order to make this happen, the Kitchen Tour Committee needs submissions of potential kitchens from homeowners and professionals, and volunteers to serve on the committee and act as docents on the day of the tour. Also needed are underwriters for the tour brochure and other materials, and sponsors for the overall tour.

If you're excited about your new kitchen, if you'd like to be part of a lively group of tour organizers, or if you'd enjoy being a docent and helping tour-goers learn all about the kitchens, please get in touch at kitchentour@rockridge.org.



RCPC File Photo

Don't Be Left Behind... *Get on Board*



Your Tickets to Ride Are Here...

RCPC Committees

- **Communications**
- **Fundraising**
- **Land Use**
- **Parks and Open Space**
- **Public Safety**
- **Schools**
- **The Rockridge News**
- **Transportation**

You've seen the ubiquitous construction cranes looming over much of Oakland and marveled at the hulking citadels left in their wakes. You've heard the voices of change calling for greater urban density. Change is coming: your Rockridge voice should be heard. Join the debate: RCPC and Rockridge need your support: rockridge.org.

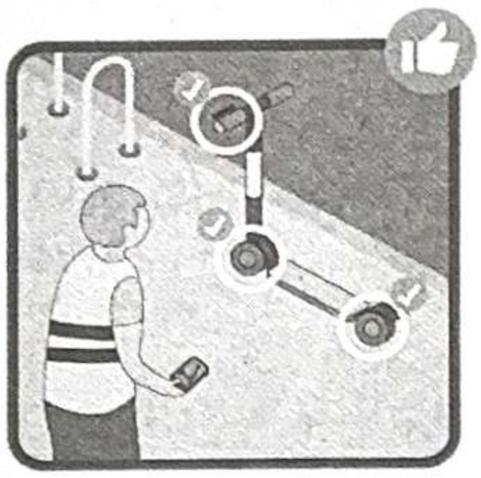
NCPC E-Scooter Meeting

Representatives from three electric scooter companies – two of which are currently active in Oakland – attended the Greater Rockridge NCPC's December meeting to discuss their businesses. Present were Marty Fatooh (mfatooh@bird.co), Community Relations Manager for Bird; Andrew Meyersieck (andrewm@calstrat.com), Program Director for California Strategies & Advocacy, representing Skip; and Tariq Fleming

Scooters and Scofflaws, page 11

E-Scooters are here!

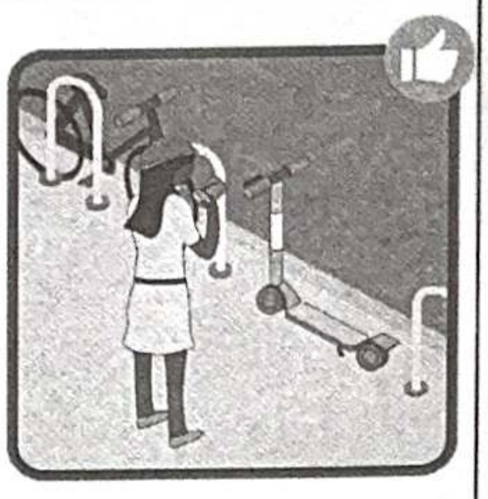
Shared electric scooters are a great way to get around Oakland.
Follow these simple steps for a safe and convenient ride.



Check brakes and wheels before riding. Report damaged scooters to the appropriate company.



Wear a helmet and follow traffic rules. Stay to the right of traffic, and use bike lanes where available.



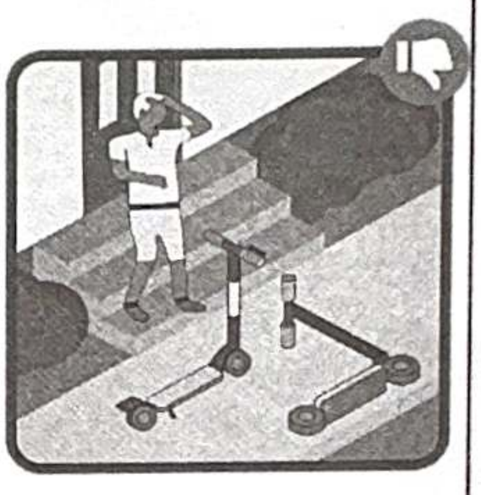
Park with care on the sidewalk. Park near bike racks or by the curbside.



Don't ride on sidewalks. Scooters are allowed on multi-use pathways, including Lake Merritt Trail.



Don't park in ramps or at blue, yellow, or white curbs. Blocked paths can be dangerous for people with disabilities.



Don't block sidewalks or building entrances. Leave at least 6 feet of sidewalk space.

Report improperly parked scooters to the scooter company or OAK 311.

For more information, visit
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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

THE Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded March 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly (except in August) and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), a nonprofit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement; and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

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Jo Ellis.....Advertising & Community Calendar
Susan Montauk.....Business Manager
Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout

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To subscribe to **The Rockridge News**, send your check for $20, payable to ***RCPC*** *with* ***"Rockridge News Subscription"*** *on the memo line.* Mail to the address below.

Contacting The Rockridge News

Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in **The Rockridge News**? • Do you have questions about newsletter distribution? • Want to volunteer to be a **Rockridge News** block captain? • Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?

Contact us at one of the following:

Editor: editor@rockridge.org;
www.rockridge.org;
The Rockridge News, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611

Articles submitted for publication may be emailed to the editor or sent to the address above. Submissions are limited to 600 words, must include the author's name, phone number, email address, and city or neighborhood of residence, and are subject to editing. Views expressed in articles accepted for publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Rockridge News, its editor, or the board of directors of the Rockridge Community Planning Council. To reprint a Rockridge News article, contact the editor.

Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the February issue is:
- **February 1, 2019.**
- **Submission deadline: January 17, 2019.**

Advertising rates are $26/column inch, 3 month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or email joellis1@hotmail.com. RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)

RCPC Land Use Committee

The January Land Use Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, January 23, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library. The agenda includes an update on the housing study. Check at https://rockridge.org – the RCPC website – the previous week for updates.

RCPC Land Use Committee Update – December 2018

See January Land Use Committee meeting details and topic in the box above.

The Land Use Committee met on December 26, with a quorum present. Committee members and interested residents heard the items summarized below.

■ **Proposed move of Curves Fitness Center from Market Hall to former site of Rockridge Rags (5709-5711 College Avenue, just south of Trader Joe's parking lot)**

Curves, a fitness center, has operated in the basement of Market Hall for many years. It has a client base of approximately 350 members, most of whom use the facility 3-4 times per week. Because of the expansion of other Market Hall businesses, it needs a new home. It is looking at moving into half of the storefront formerly occupied by Rockridge Rags. (The other half may be occupied by a [illegible]s clothing store.)

Under College Avenue's CN-1 zoning, it is considered a commercial assembly business and would require a conditional use permit. In granting such permits, the City usually requires that 20 percent of the usable space (preferably at the front of the store) be devoted to retail sales. This maintains the continuity of retail uses on College Avenue, and RCPC has supported this.

Curves may have trouble fitting all their exercise equipment into a 1200 sq. ft. space and also having roughly 240 sq. ft. of retail space. Its owner points out that its clientele, primarily older women, needs a suitable exercise space to stay mobile and fit, and there are no other similar programs near Rockridge. The Committee considered that, even if it had to stretch to meet the 20 percent retail requirement, the business met a need for Rockridge residents and would continue to bring its many clients to College Avenue where they would hopefully stick around to shop and eat. The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that RCPC not oppose the move.

If it turns out that the Rockridge Rags space doesn't work for Curves, it is also looking at the space opposite the Rockridge Library formerly occupied by Loot.

■ **Update on Rockridge Housing Study**

While faculty at the Terner Center at UC Berkeley were unable to assist in the housing study, a call for volunteers through The Rockridge News was answered by two UCB graduate students and three Rockridge area professionals.

The Committee heard an update on the status of the study and was walked through a demonstration of a housing feasibility model developed by the Terner Center. The model is available at http://ternercenter2.berkeley.edu/proforma/. The housing study working group will meet in January to begin working on the analysis.

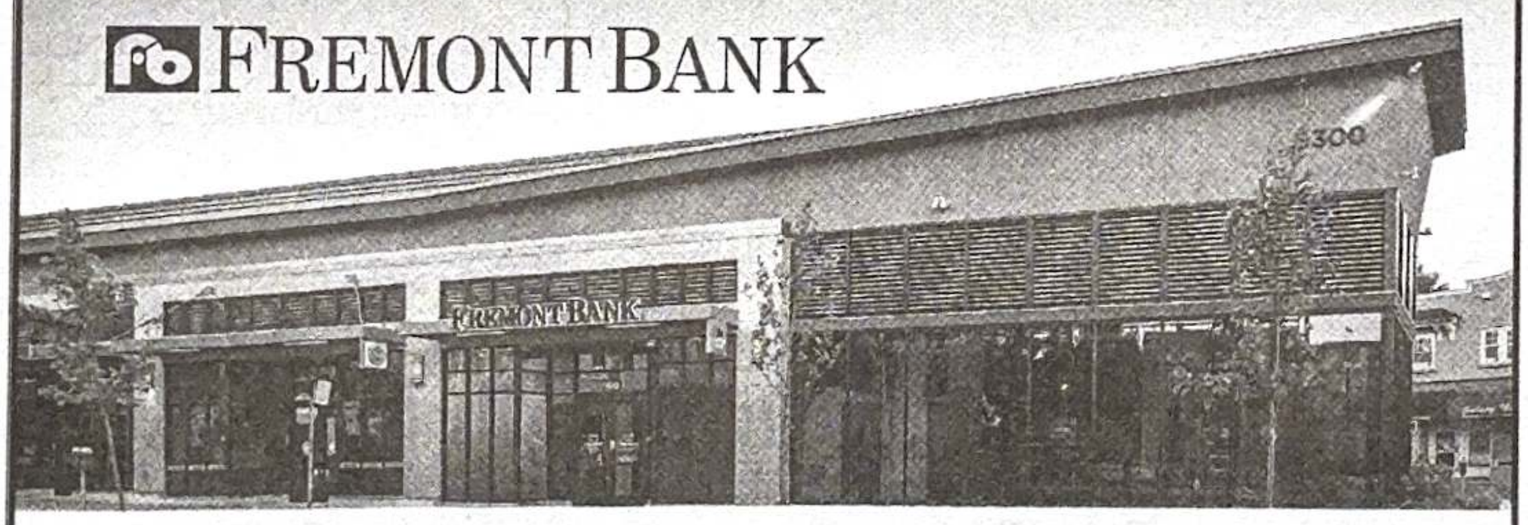
AC Transit Service and Rate Changes: 2019

Late in 2018, service changes went into effect on a number of AC Transit local and Transbay lines, including lines that serve Rockridge residents.

Transbay service includes new double decker buses; streamlined routes; and new trips. Effective January 1, Transbay fares will increase to $5.50 for adults and $2.75 for youth, seniors, and the disabled.

Information on all changes and new schedules and route maps are available at actransit.org., or call 510/891-4777.

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Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes posted letters and emails to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, email address and city/neighborhood must be included in either for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity at the editor's discretion. Views expressed in any letter are the writer's own, and may not necessarily be shared by the editor or by RCPC.

December Issue Montages Present Highly Inaccurate Images of Proposed CCA Development

Editor:

It is regrettable that The Rockridge News chose to print the photo montages appearing in the December issue of the newsletter on development plans for the CCA site. Whether unintentionally or intentionally, the four montages present highly inaccurate images of a 19-story residential building. This distortion is further compounded by the caption for the images that reads: "potential views of tower proposed for construction on the former CCA campus." Only when one reads the article is it revealed the tower image used is a Kaiser office building and not a proposed 19-story residential building.

The building shown is a 24-story commercial structure and not a 19-story residential building. Selecting an office building further biases the analyses since office building floor heights are normally 1.5 to 2 feet or more greater than those of residential buildings. Taking both of these factors into account, the building height shown in the montages exaggerates the height of a 19- story residential tower by 100 feet or more. Additionally the width of the building shown in all likelihood is far greater than that of a residential tower. Depending on siting and orientation the width of a residential structure could appear to be 50 percent or less than of that shown. The accuracy of height shown from the various viewpoints is also questionable.

In fairness to both residents and the project proponents, review of the project should be based on facts and avoid misinformation and possible inflammatory descriptions. I have yet to decide on the merits of the proposed plan and will await further accurate information. Hopefully future editions of The Rockridge News will more carefully review future submittals and provide the community with an accurate and well-informed basis for responses to the CCA project and other future projects.

— Tom Cooke

RCPC Land Use Committee Chair Stuart Flashman Replies:

Dear Mr. Cooke:

Thank you for your letter. The Rockridge News would have far preferred to show some of the perspective views of the CCA campus project that had been presented at the September Land Use Committee meeting by the CCA developers. I inquired about their availability, knowing a Rockridge News article was in preparation, but was told those slides would not be made available. The photo montages created and presented by an audience member at the Oakland Tech meeting were the only representations we could get. The accompanying ar[illegible] included disclosures that the photos: 1) were unofficial; 2) were actually of a Kaiser building; and 3) were not to scale. Accuracy was not claimed. The montages do (as they were designed to do) arouse the readers' concern in the absence of available, first-hand, illustrative design material. Regardless, 19 stories is pretty high. We are still hoping to present some of the CCA slides in the January Rockridge News, but as of today (12/24) none have been provided.

— Stuart Flashman

Ed. Note: CCA renderings were not available at press time. CCA's publicist has promised multiple views of the project at the January Town Hall.

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Eyes on Rockridge Bambino Article Draws New Customers

Editor:

Thanks so much for the wonderful article Judy Berne wrote about the Bambino. (December 2018 issue of The Rockridge News, "Eyes on Rockridge," page 8.) We have already had new customers as a result of the article! They mentioned they had not known about the Bambino until they read the article in the newsletter.

So from our perspective, the article has been a success.

— Carol Miller





Letters, from page 4

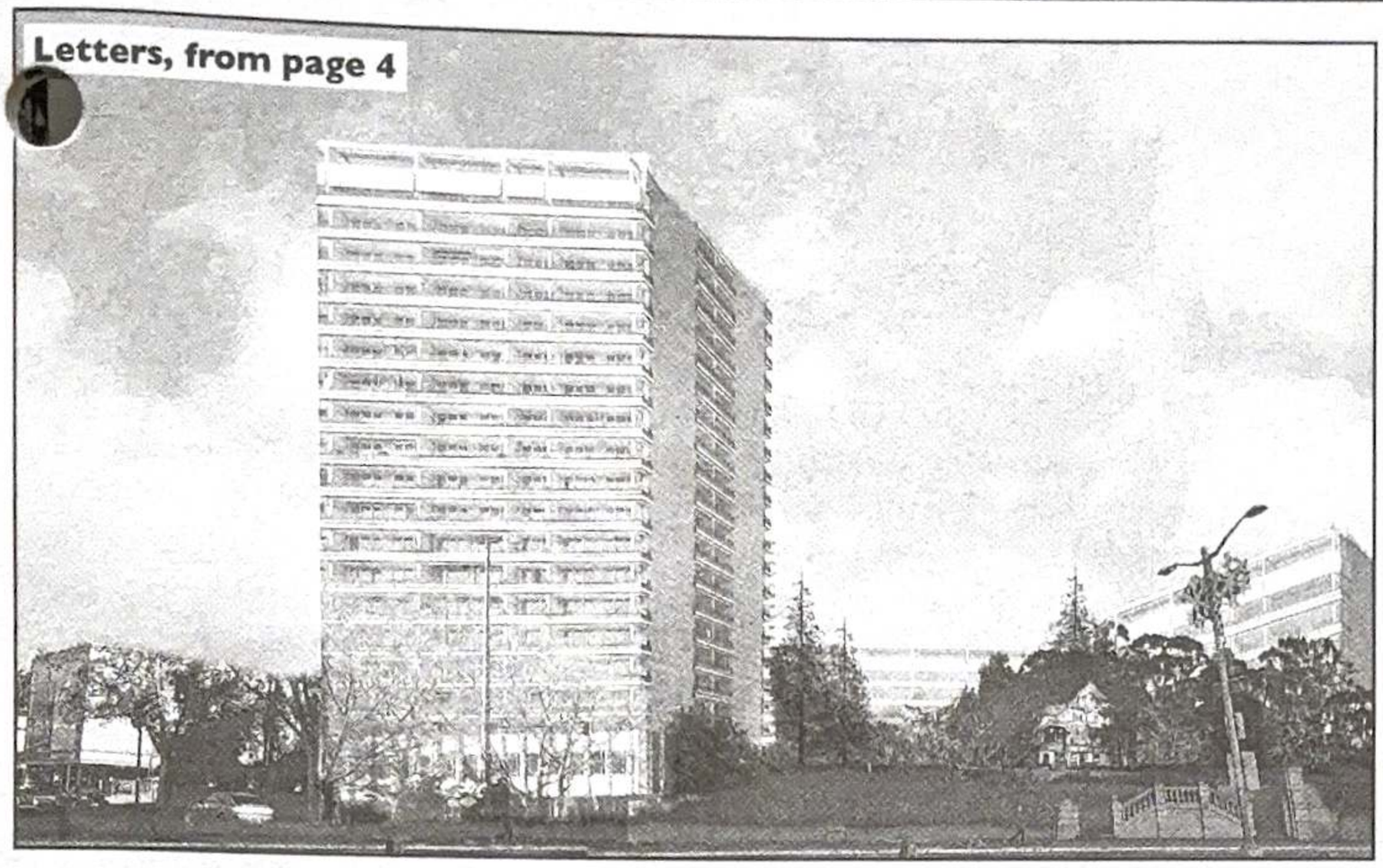


Photo Rendering by Nicole Lazzaro

Planning for a final design of the former Oakland campus of California College of the Arts (CCA) continues. The school's development team will discuss current progress at the January Town Hall meeting detailed on page 1. A project feature that has been broadly discussed with few details available, is a 19-story residential housing tower. How might it actually look should it be built? Rockridge resident and business owner Nicole Lazzaro prepared the above rendering as a possibility. The view includes the Broadway campus frontage from Broadway Terrace to the southern edge of the campus overlooking The Ridge shopping center. In the following letter to the editor, Lazzaro offers her thoughts on the project and its potential effects on the neighborhood.

Is There a Warning in the Failure of "The Ridge" Plan?

Editor:

Thank you for running the piece on the planned development of the CCA campus in the December 2018 issue of The Rockridge News. The development plans present an important decision for residents. I feel redevelopment should address the concerns of our community such as the loss of about 600 daytime residents (CCA students and self-employed, small business owners, retired professors, artists, cultural creatives forced out because of higher rents). Our cafés are not the same without them.

I was deeply concerned about what the CCA developers didn't show at the Oakland Tech High School presentation. It's unfortunate they decided not to bring the additional "street view" drawings promised us in the first community meeting. The only views of the 19-story tower in both community meetings were from half a mile or more away.

Hopefully, postponing the December 2018 Land Use Committee meeting gave the developers time to clarify their vision for the development and to address the numerous concerns your article so aptly summarizes.

I include an additional rendering I made (image at left), showing the scale of a 19-story tower next to the 4-story Macky Hall Mansion.

A digital artist, I've based my business here for 26 years and lived in Rockridge for most of them. Rockridge is zoned as a neighborhood center community zone to cultivate a vibrant pedestrian-oriented mixed-use commercial district. This is why my business is here. Rockridge's design let me get rid of my car 5 years ago and either walk or bike to work. I value Rockridge's walkable small scale, the front yard gardens, and being able to shop local for just about everything.

In addition to height concerns, the current 19-story tower plan focuses primarily on "market rate" units affordable only to tech workers. My concern is that they will most days hop on a Google Bus to commute to work, eating their three meals a day on campus, not on College Avenue. Moreover, such a large change in density (600 units x 4 residents each) needs to be mitigated with adequate transportation (CCA had free mass transit to/from SF), a plan to attract high-paying local jobs to ease parking and traffic, and a path for

Letters, page 15



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Fall Market Competition Drives Price

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
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12/13/2018	3	2	5567 Thomas Avenue	$1,795,000	$1,795,000	27	$2,075,000
12/17/2018	1	2	5405 Carlton St	$795,000	$499,000	14	$810,000
12/20/2018	3	2	470 61st Street	$945,000	$945,000	89	$1,050,000
12/24/2018	2	1	5505 Taft Ave	$1,400,000	$1,765,000	0	$1,765,000
12/27/2018	2	1	5496 Kales Ave	$998,000	$998,000	13	$1,250,000

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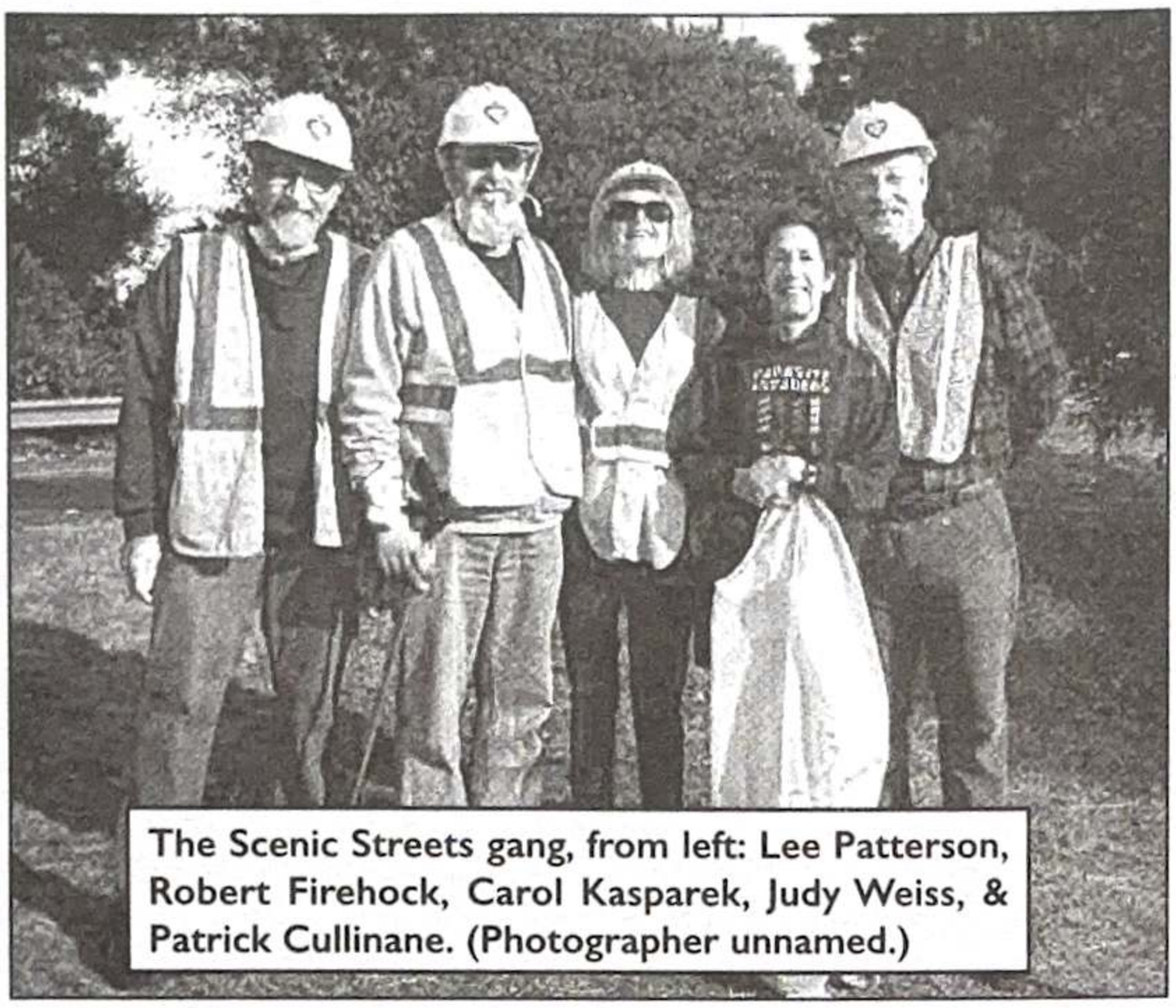
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Scenic Streets of Oakland

Scenic Streets: Taming Rockridge Weeds



The Scenic Streets gang, from left: Lee Patterson, Robert Firehock, Carol Kasparek, Judy Weiss, & Patrick Cullinane. (Photographer unnamed.)

Seasons Greetings to you all. Scenic Streets of Oakland, your neighborhood volunteer organization that maintains the Claremont/Hwy 24 on- and off- ramps, as well as various street plantings in that area, has had a transitional and active year. The transition has been both organizational and functional:

Our administrative support and affiliation moved from the Rockridge Community Planning Council to the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation;

The extended drought encouraged a major ramp landscape re-evaluation and we're now refocusing on planting and maintaining more drought tolerant vegetation. We are letting our inactive drip irrigation system continue to lie fallow.

Your help is needed. Want a sense of community involvement? The satisfaction of physical exercise and interacting with a dedicated team? The mysticism of aesthetic expression? Join us! We also need someone interested in developing a very simple and basic, or complicated and résumé-building, website. For more information, contact Lee Patterson at 510-923/1084 or lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com.

Happy New Year from the Hardy Dog Park Group

2019 promises to be a big year for Hardy Dog Park. We hope to draw up renovation plans, finish our fundraising, and continue our monthly cleanups. We also have plans to build more benches like the lovely one donated in 2018.

Are you interested in helping to keep your neighborhood dog park clean and safe? Join us for our monthly cleanups the first Saturday of each month from 9-10:30am, rain or shine.

Remember: we always need your old, clean newspaper bags; please drop them off at either entrance (corner of Hudson and Claremont, or along Claremont next to FROG park).

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Rockridge Library Bids Farewell to Teen Librarian

Alona Rivord, Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL)

Long-serving Teen Librarian Vicky Chen left her role at the Rockridge Branch Library in late December, following her promotion to branch manager at the Montclair Library.

Chen, Rockridge teen librarian for seven years, has been with the Oakland Public Library system for 16 years. She previously held teen librarian roles at the Asian and Eastmont Branches.

Rockridge's teen patrons threw a spirited farewell party for Chen at the branch just before school break. Parents and teens said they are sad to see her go. "She's been an advocate for them," one mom said. "She's always sided with the kids who come in here."

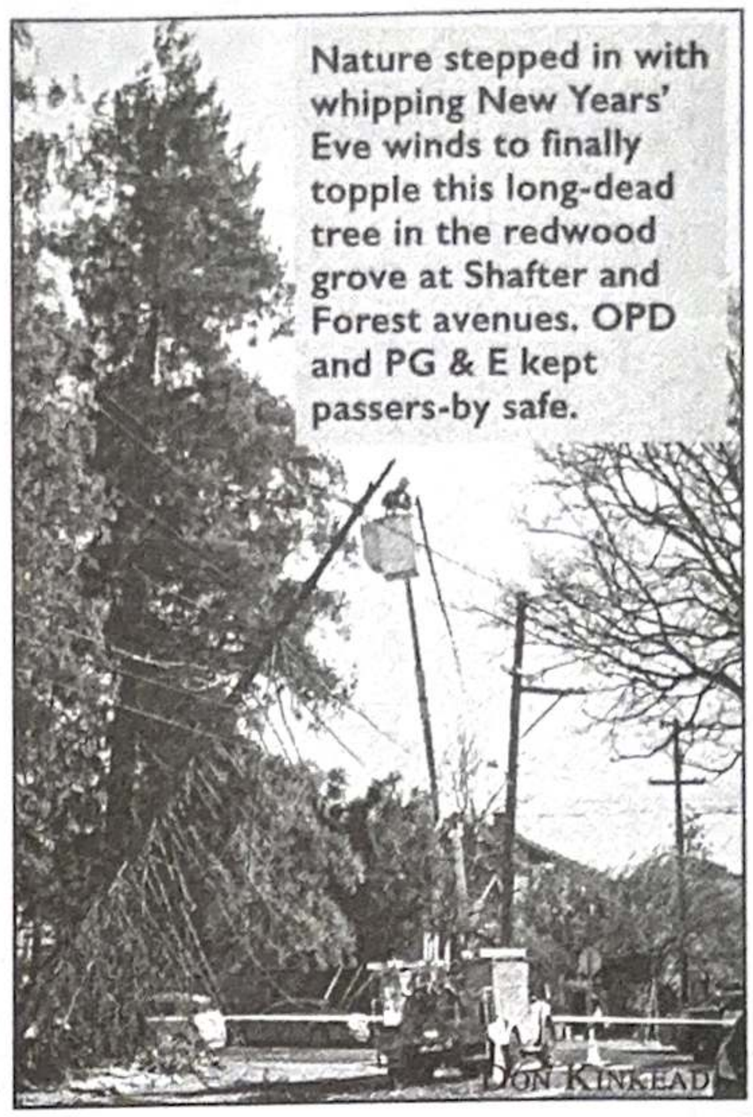
Chen estimates that about 3,000 teen patrons are served at the Rockridge Branch each year. She has strived to offer them a comfortable place where they can be themselves.

"I feel so honored to be a part of their lives and to watch them grow up," Chen said.

The library's teen program offers a safe place for students to socialize, study, learn something new, or just have fun after school.

Chen says she has also enjoyed offering teens book suggestions. "It's amazing; they like books!"

No announcement has yet been made regarding Chen's replacement. She offers Rockridge's next teen librarian the following advice: "Enjoy yourself. They'll give you a lot of inspiration."



Nature stepped in with whipping New Years' Eve winds to finally topple this long-dead tree in the redwood grove at Shafter and Forest avenues. OPD and PG & E kept passers-by safe.

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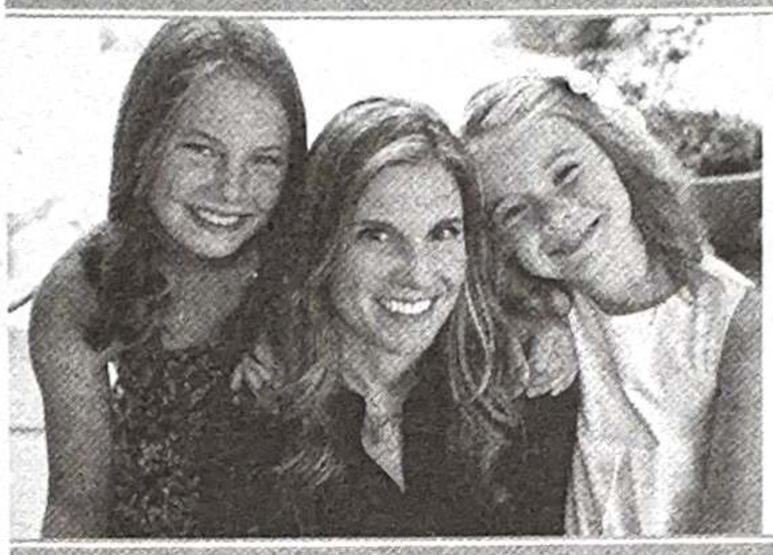
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Eyes on Rockridge

ALL PHOTOS: JUDITH DONER BERNE

'Committed' Claremont Music Teacher Exits Suburbs to Teach in Oakland

by Judith Doner Berne

I'm a student of them. I like the challenge." That's Ari Brown's take on the diverse student body he teaches as the music teacher at Claremont Middle School in the heart of downtown Rockridge.

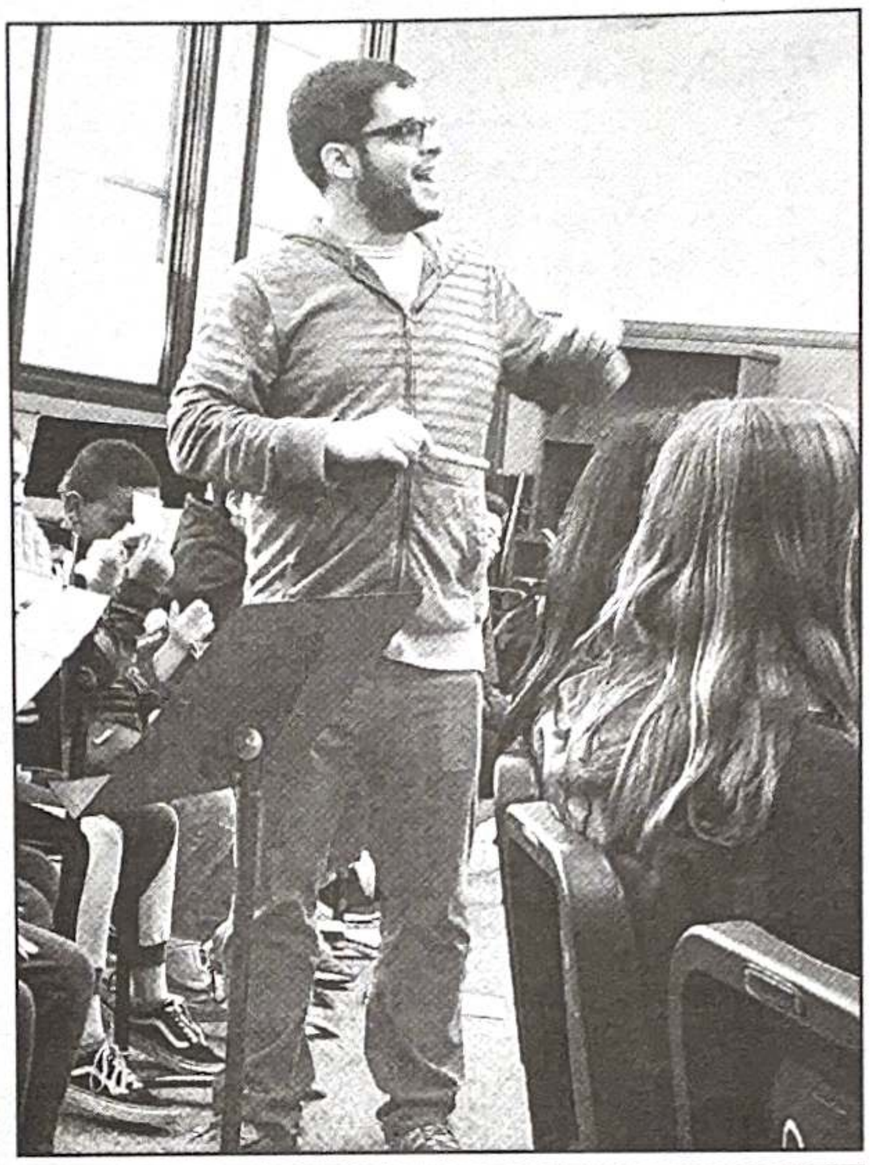
Brown, a trumpeter who grew up in the affluent Chicago suburbs and earned a bachelor's and two master's degrees (trumpet performance, jazz studies, music education) from the University of Illinois, deliberately chose to teach middle school.

Although he claims "this middle school experience resonates because I haven't matured beyond that age," it's clear that his instincts, training and what he has learned from his students have given him the skills to know who, what, why and how to teach.

His decision to both teach and live in Oakland – with his wife and three young sons – came after stints in Campbell and Burlingame. Then, he said, "I taught where it was easy to teach." Now, in his third year at Claremont, "The complexity of teaching in an urban setting gives me an opportunity to address the injustices I see in our society."

When I sat in on an early December music class that every sixth grader takes, I could see that Brown's jokes and easy banter belied his persistence in making sure that even the most challenging of his students can learn to play an instrument.

"Don't be tardy to the party," he urged a few who took their time getting to their seats. "Being present means not just your body, but your mind," he added as they sat down. And when one student answered a question asked to another, his reaction was: "Stop answering for him. That's a form of theft." As a few lingered in his classroom after the bell sounded, one playing the piano and two others hip-hopping to her music, Brown enjoyed the scene, then reminded them that they are due in their next class with a: "Go to school, guys."



Claremont Middle School music teacher Ari Brown in action.

Brown picked this day to make his pitch for continuing on in music. These sixth graders will switch to a computer class for the second semester, but will have a chance to elect concert band as seventh and eighth graders. "The kids get their own instruments and can take them home to practice. If you are not loving your instrument, you can change. We learn how to play seven songs. We give concerts. And we go on a field trip to a weekend music camp in the redwoods. That's probably the most fun thing I've done as a teacher."

When I later asked if he can figure out which of his students will choose band as their elective, he acknowledged, "I never know who will sign up, but I do a little recruiting." And that includes offering the opportunity to also play and perform in jazz band, which meets three days a week in the hour before school begins.

That Brown has inherited past excellence in the 105-year-old school's music program was recently evidenced. Last spring, internationally known trumpeter John Faddis, who attended Claremont as a seventh grader, made a surprise appearance at the school's May concert, playing along and taking solos with the school's jazz band.

Committed to Claremont, page 9



Questions About Wills, Trusts, and Probate?

Kyle M. Johnston
Estate Attorney

5315 College Ave.
Oakland, CA 94618
510.527.1880

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WISHING YOU A PEACEFUL HOLIDAY SEASON

Committed to Claremont

from page 8

While visiting Oakland, Faddis apparently saw the upcoming concert posted on the school's outdoor bulletin board. "He just walked into the office and asked if he could sit in," Brown said. "I couldn't believe it. He's a trumpet player I've been listening to since I was a kid. This is what musicians do for one another. He was given to as a young person, and now he's the elder statesman and he's giving back."

And this past fall, the Claremont music program received an anonymous $20,000 gift from a former student in honor of his music teacher George Eeds, who taught at the school in the Sixties. The school's upcoming 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 17, band concert (see related story) will honor Eeds. "One of his surviving sons will attend, so hopefully we will learn a little more about this teacher," Brown said.

"I had just been saying that we needed a once-in-a-generation infusion of funds," Brown said. To purchase the instruments, he relied on Anna Orias, the mother of seventh grade flutist Aidan, who just happens to be executive director of Musically Minded Academy, a non-profit music education organization which she founded in 1993.

"Ari said what he wanted," Orias told me. "And Anna helped me shop it," Brown said. The day I visited, they were assembling the vibraphone, one of what Brown terms the students' "new toys." The money also bought a marimba, tuba, tubular bells set, glockenspiel and timpani.

Her seventh grade son, Orias said, "is extremely inspired by Mr. Brown." That was echoed by Quincy Schreiber, an eighth grader who plays flute and trombone: "Mr. Brown really understands his students and wants what's best for them. He's a great teacher because he is goofy and serious at the same time."

"My son has been participating in jazz band and in concert band with Mr. Brown for three years, and I credit him for developing

Committed to Claremont, page 13

Claremont Middle School Hosts Band Concert

You can check out Claremont Middle School's music program at its 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 17, band concert in the ...ool auditorium, 5750 College Avenue at Birch Court.

The seventh and eighth grade bands will each perform followed by the school's jazz band, all conducted by music teacher Ari Brown.

Featured guest artists are Bay Area musicians Dillon Vado on vibraphone, Tammy Hall on piano and Ruth Davies on bass.

The concert honors former Claremont music teacher, James Eeds.

$20,000 for Music Program
Anonymous Donor Gives to CMS

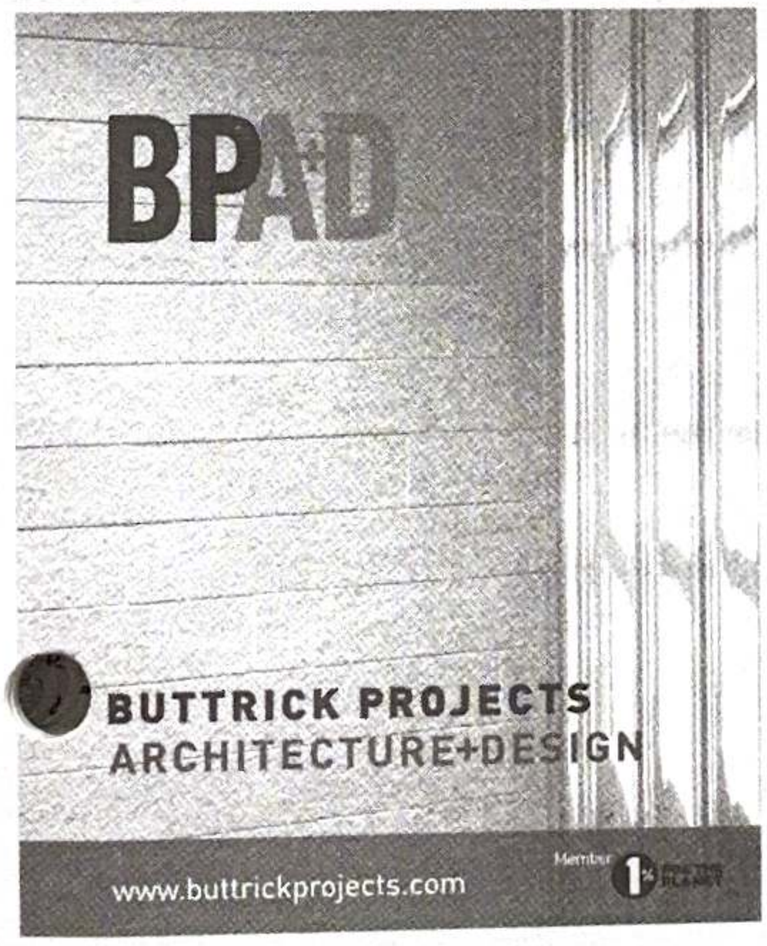
Claremont Middle School music teacher Ari Brown was at the Rockridge Out and About street fair with his students last September when an older gentleman approached him at the end of the jazz ensemble performance. Brown said he was too busy to talk, "but something told me to say hello."

The man shared that he had been a student in the music program at CMS in the early 1960's. He told Brown he couldn't remember his former teacher's name, but that he had received a great experience in orchestra there. He said he had been hoping to make a donation in the memory of his teacher. The next day, the man contacted Brown to say he remembered his teacher's name: James Eeds.

The man said he wished to make an anonymous and unrestricted $20,000 donation to the CMS music program. "I was shocked to be sure," Brown said. The only condition was that the purchases stay at Claremont in perpetuity.

Eeds died in 2004 at age 83. Brown found his obituary, and then tracked down his family. His son is expected to be at the upcoming January 17 CMS concert (see details at left).

From a report in the Claremont Knightline <news@claremontms.org>



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What are some exciting things about Pacific Union becoming part of Compass?
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* Compass has the most innovative technology tools to quickly & effectively implement productive strategic & tactical marketing plans for your home using targeted "Big Data" analytics.
* Compass now has all the same local expert agents Pacific Union has enjoyed, joining forces with the firm's larger regional & national presence, resulting in unmatched market and direct reach capabilities.



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COMPASS

Claremont MS Girls Volleyball Undefeated! Takes OUSD District Middle School Volleyball Championship



We Are the Champions, My Friends

Wow! Girls Volleyball takes Oakland Unified School District Middle School Volleyball Championship, enjoying an UNDEFEATED SEASON. They never lost a game within any match this entire season. The team was led by a talented group of 8th grade players. On Thursday, December 13, we had our own individual awards gathering. Thank you to Coach Syl and Coach Issac for an amazing season. See right column for details about awards.

Among the students pictured at left, the following were recognized for their commitment to excellence within our program:

Bayla Polston:

MVP - Overall Leader

Holland Rouquette:

Team Captain

Andrea Torres:

Offensive MVP

Fiona McGilly:

Defensive MVP

Jorjia Polston:

Team Spirit MVP

I'Lyasia Vital:

Best Power Server

I'Lyiah Vital:

Best Power Hitter

Senascia Crower:

Most Improved

(Reprinted from the Claremont Middle School newsletter The Knightline, 12/20/18.)

California College of the Arts Exhibition Explores Parenthood

MAKING (IT) WORK

Making (It) Work is an exhibition of artworks made by artists during their first few years of parenthood. Many artists are surprised to find that the joys, hardships, and consuming nature of child care can produce unexpected layers of inspiration and an urgent sense of motivation. A reevaluation of priorities and time spent changes the way artists approach the studio; new questions are revealed, new modes of working are hashed out.

The exhibition doesn't assume parenthood to be a necessity for deeper understanding of self or artistic practice. Rather, it celebrates the resilience and dedication of artists. Becoming a parent is a profound identity shift, and this show highlights the work made during this transition. Making (It) Work celebrates makers who have embraced parenthood in its many forms and recognize its generative force.

Featuring work by Lisha Bai, Karen Dana, Leigh Davis, Ariel Dill, Madeline Donahue, Georgia Elrod, Jackie Gendel, David Huffman, McKendree Key, Shaun Leonardo, JJ Manford, Sangram Majumdar, Aspen Mays, Leeza Meksin, Althea Murphy-Price, Elizabeth Russell, Karen Seapker, Allison Smith, Elisa Soliven, Witts, Karla Wozniak, and Ezra Wube. Curated by Karla Wozniak and Georgia Elrod.

Tue, Jan 22 – Thu, Feb 7 2019
Panel discussion and closing reception:
Wed., Feb. 6, 6:pm -7:30 p.m.
5212 Broadway, Oakland

ORGANIZED BY
CCA Exhibitions

Scooters and Scofflaws

from page 2

(tariq.fleming@limebike.com), Operations Manager for Lime.

Each representative gave a brief presentation on the company's approach to safety, and actions they are taking to address certain open issues, followed by an active question and answer session. The Skip representative said the company is not currently renting scooters in Oakland, having withdrawn after a brief period.

Resident complaints about the e-scooters included:

- People riding scooters on the sidewalk, or in other inconvenient places like school grounds during sports events
- People riding scooters without helmets
- Juveniles riding scooters
- People carrying passengers on scooters
- Scooters discarded where they obstruct private property or pedestrian traffic and might inconvenience people using walkers or wheelchairs
- The difficulty of reporting rider misconduct, or inconveniently placed scooters
- The city's failure to get money from the profiting companies that would cover the cost of enforcement

The first four issues are against the law (California Vehicle Code sec. 21235). Following the recent passage of AB2989 (sponsored by Bird), helmets on motorized scooters will be optional for riders over 18 years old after January 1, 2019.

The biggest issue of all was enforcement. OPD, overloaded and understaffed, is not trying to ticket illegal scooter riders, although David Mac, our Community Resource Officer, has tried to do educational outreach. But now, if a 14-year-old kid decides to ride a scooter on the College Avenue sidewalk, no one will stop him and there will be no punishment, although the state fine for riding on the sidewalk is $197.

All use of e-scooters by persons under 18 years old is a violation of the companies' published terms of service. The companies admitted they didn't begin to require a photo of a driver's license, for proof that the rider was 18 years old and licensed after making the app available. They now require a scan of a valid driver's license before making the scooters available, but they don't validate the rider against the license on file when a scooter is rented. It is not clear how younger teenagers on scooters got the app. Bird and Lime are both considering requiring a validation selfie (for facial recognition) to be presented through the app when logging in, as Uber requires for their drivers. They're also considering using fingerprints.

All three firms require new riders to go through their tutorial on the rules of the road, or watch a video, before they can rent a scooter. The tutorials and videos are claimed to be accurate, but they're short and not specific, and clearly not all riders pay attention to them.

Only one of the companies described any means of penalizing riders who break the rules in the tutorial. Lime's app contains a geofencing function – they can define a no-go area, and a no-parking area. It isn't clear how many no-go areas they have defined. Skip is testing sensors that can tell if the scooter is on a sidewalk.

Bird has people who go around every night to collect discarded scooters, recharge them, and put them back out in supposedly convenient places. Lime solicits chargers to sign up and recharge vehicles at night for a fee. Lime also has staff members who operate 24/7 retrieving, rebalancing or deploying scooters. Firms have no control over where riders choose to leave scooters. They rely on GPS in the app to find them.

Reporting Misplaced Scooters

In Oakland you can report misplaced scooters to OAK 311, either by phone or using the SeeClickFix app. It is not clear what kind of response Public Works provides. If you have the Bird app, you can use it to report misplaced scooters to the company. Bird riders must now use the app to photograph the place where they leave the vehicle. All three companies said residents can call them with complaints; they all have "contact us" phone numbers on their websites. Bird accepts complaints at hello@bird.co. Lime accepts complaints at support@limebike.com. The general absence of clear identifying numbers on badly placed scooters doesn't help.

As for charges paid to the City, Oakland Department of Transportion (OakDOT) finalized the rules governing scooter sharing companies, including fees to the City, in December, 2018. You can see the actual document setting out the conditions and fees on the OakDOT page on the City website under E-Scooters. We'll have to see how this works out over time.

— Karen Ivy, Secretary
Greater Rockridge NCPC

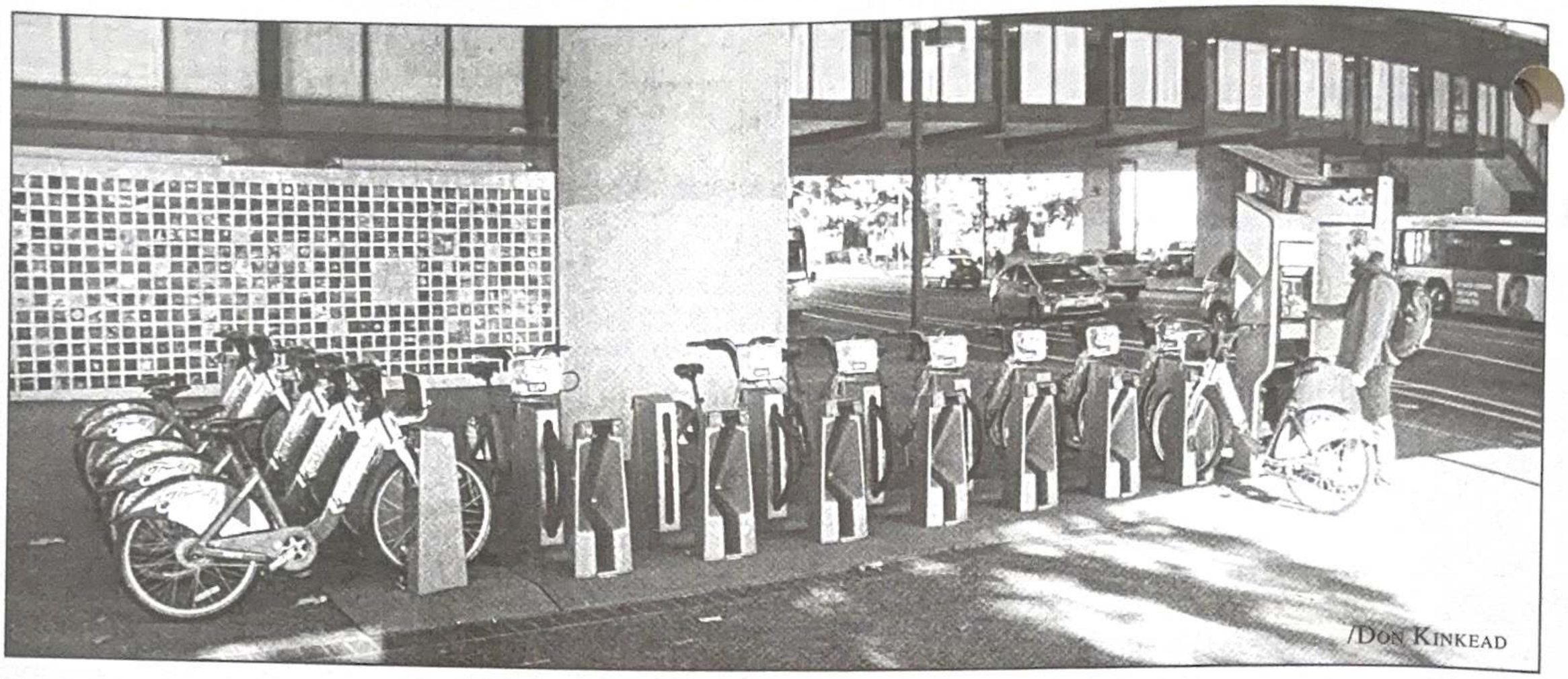


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/Don Kinkead

Early in 2018, Ford GoBike was casting about for suitable locations for its new bike rental stations. Several placements, especially in residential neighborhoods, were objected to by nearby residents. Would a College Avenue location fare any better? Perhaps, except a location under the BART overpass put the bikes and their rental paraphernalia close enough to the Firestorm Memorial Wall that many Rockridge residents feared damage to the Memorial's tiles from falling bikes or otherwise careless riders. The City and Ford GoBikes called the location temporary and agreed to consider alternatives based on a survey of the community. In the end, no clearly acceptable alternative emerged. However, the bike racks and rental kiosk were moved farther away from the memorial wall. While some residents are still concerned that the bikes obstruct the view of the commemorative tiles, the bike renter pictured above said he was unaware of any concerns. "Overall, it's convenient," he said.
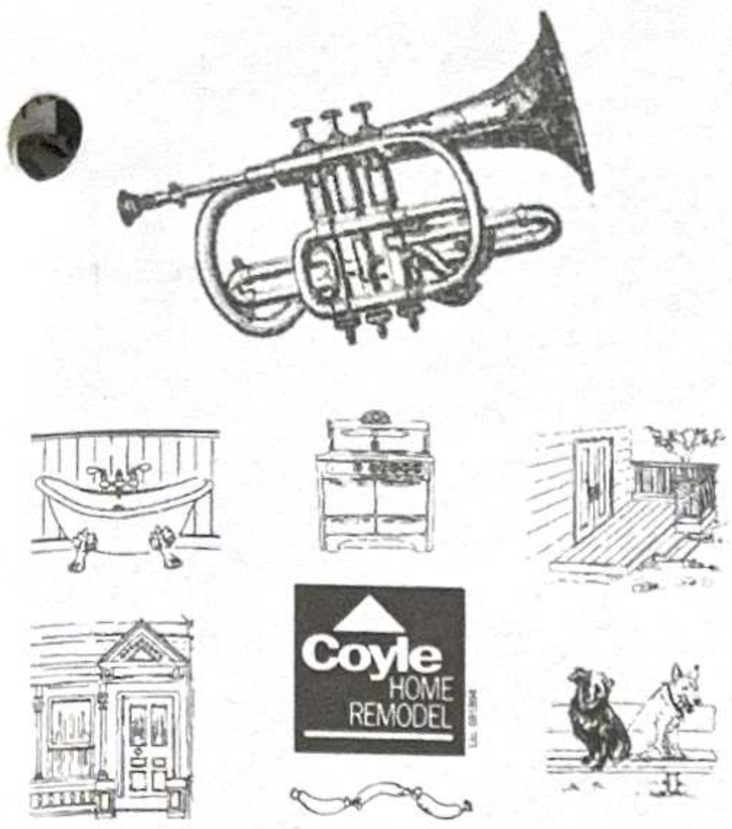
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Music teacher Ari Brown with some of his students.

Committed to Claremont

from page 9

his talent," said Quincy's dad, Christian Schreiber, who was Claremont PTA president for two years and now serves on its board. "But more importantly," Schreiber said, "Mr. Brown has fostered a love and appreciation of music. It's a lifetime gift."

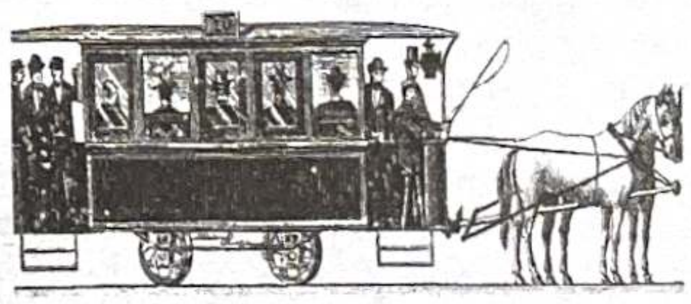
"Mr. Brown loves music like a kid loves ice cream," said Jamie Eder, father of eighth grader and three-year jazz band member Gus Goldstone. "He's so committed and the kids can smell that." "Mr. Brown has a knack for always broadening his students' musical horizons," said Gus's mom, Ruth Goldstone. "Gus has enjoyed learning not just trombone, but also trumpet and cornet from Mr. Brown."

To Claremont Principal Jonathan Mayer, "the momentum is just starting." He foresees Brown's leadership generating continued growth for the school's music program. "He comes in the period before school starts (for jazz band)...He gives up his lunches... He has musicians from SF Jazz, he has Cal students coming in to play with and mentor students," Mayer said. "He's building those relationships. I just see his commitment."

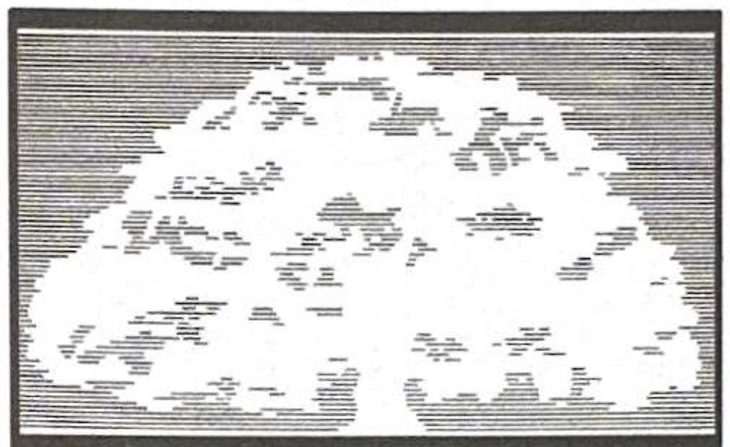
"I have been getting the support of SFJazz this year and it's great," Brown confirmed. "They send a teaching artist into my classroom two days a week to work alongside me in the jazz rehearsals. I have also had members of the Music Connection, a volunteer organization from UC Berkeley, coming in. There have been four or five of them coming once a week to two classes."

Asked to name a breakthrough moment as a teacher, Brown didn't hesitate: "Working with the kind of need we see here in Oakland caused me to reflect on what a victory is. It's getting a kid with the most challenged circumstance to take on an instrument."

If you have questions or comments on this column or if you have an idea for a Rockridge story, please email judyberne@att.net.



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Rockridge Resident Dorothy Eng



In Loving Memory of Dorothy Eng
August 25, 1923 - June 29, 2018

Dorothy was "made in China, delivered in San Francisco" in 1923. She grew up the eldest of eleven brothers and sisters in Emeryville and Oakland, California. She married Koney Eng in 1946 and was widowed in 1952 after having two children. She lived in Philadelphia, Jersey City, New Jersey, and Fresno, as well as in Oakland.

She got an AA in Management and Supervision from Laney College in 1979 and returned to college after her retirement to earn a BA in English Literature from San Francisco State University in 1998.

Her working career began with the federal government, after which she worked as a medical assistant, then for Alameda County. She retired as a Customer Service representative for Equitable Life Assurance.

She was always engaged in her community, serving in leadership roles in the Chinese Young Women's Association, the Chinese Presbyterian Church of Oakland, East Bay Medical Assistants Association, Toastmasters International, and the North Oakland Senior Center. She loved to travel and had photos with friends all over the world.

She lived her final years at Piedmont Gardens Assisted Living in Oakland, and died at Summit Medical Center. She would have celebrated her 95th birthday in August, 2018.

She is survived by her son, Koney Eng Jr. and wife Ute; daughter Karen Eng; and her granddaughters, Sierra Hampton-Eng and husband Justin Kollar and their son Owen; and Kelly Eng and her fiancé Evan Conyers. Her surviving siblings are Loris Louie, Henry Chinn, Helen Bundock, Nellie Fung, Edward Chinn, and Thomas Chinn.

Editor's Note: The Rockridge News learned of Dorothy Eng's passing away from a letter sent by an anonymous neighborhood acquaintance from her time living on Broadway. The neighbor noted that, "She left behind many friends and neighbors from Rockridge and, later, Piedmont Gardens. She hosted National Night Out for her Broadway neighbors for many years, bringing unity to the neighbor hood.

"She gave up her Broadway Rockridge News delivery route in 2004, but never gave up her love of the newsletter. Upon request, I once delivered a copy of the newsletter to her at Piedmont Gardens. She was so happy to get news from the old neighborhood."

RN Classifieds

Your Message Could Be Here
Your 36-word message is $22. (Phone number counts as one word.) **Make check payable to RCPC** and write **Rockridge News Classified Ad** on the memo line. Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. ***The classified ad February issue deadline is January 17. The February issue*** *will be out on* ***Februasry 1.*** *For information: Email Susan Montauk via smontauk@gmail.com*

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Square Dance in North Oakland

Music by The Squirrelly String Band. Calling by Jordan Ruyle. 1st Fridays each month, 8 – 10p. All levels welcome; all dances taught on the spot. Come alone or bring friends. $5-10 sliding scale donation. The Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. Info: squirrellystringband.com.

Email Rockridge News Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: Rockridge News Community Calendar, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month. **Compiled by Jo Ellis**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN

- **Family Story Time:** Stories/songs/rhymes (for all ages); Saturdays, 10:30am.
- **Toddler Story Time:** Songs, active rhymes and stories (for 9 months to 2 years), Thursdays, 10:30am, upstairs.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** Read-alouds, songs, and rhymes (ages 2 to 5); Thursdays, 10:30am

All story times followed by Play Time; parents and caregivers invited.

SPECIAL EVENTS: all ages welcome.

- **Stretching for Caregivers:** bring your children to free basic stretching session for adults. Wednesdays, 10:10am.
- **Chess Club:** learn the basics; **Instruction and chess sets provided. Best for ages 8 to 12.** Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm.
- **Mix It Up Family Game Night:** Bring your favorite game or try one of ours. Every Tues 6:30-7:45pm (except for Family Craft Night). Meets Jan 15 & 29, and Feb 5.
- **Family Craft Night: Every 2nd Tues**, 6:30-7:45pm. Jan 8th: Make a Bamboo Whirling Spinning Centrifuge Toy. Feb 12th: Valentines.
- **Winter BINGO:** For kids up to 12. Pick up BINGO card; fill a row to win book of your choice. Collect prize at the library now thru Jan 19.
- **Drop-In Activity:** Meet the Verb Monster & Adverb Monster at the Children's Desk, and take their challenge! Mwah ha ha!

FOR TEENS

- **Rockridge Teen Advisory Board** (ages 14-18): Help advise the library how to better serve teens; get community service credit for school. 2nd Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Teen 'Scape Program:** Play video games and make craft; every Tues, Thurs, and Fri, 3:30 - 5pm; Wed, 1:30 - 5pm (during school days).
- **Study Room Hours:** High school tutor available for homework help. Tues, and Thurs 4 - 5pm; Wed, 2:45 - 4pm (during school days).
- **Make Felt Banners:** with your message. 1/9, 2pm.
- **Pulled String Art:** abstract art with strings and paint. 1/16, 2pm.
- **Book Page Roses:** make paper roses using old book pages: 2/13, 2pm.
- **Decorate Stress Balls:** with different faces, 2/6, 2pm.
- **Peer Circle, A Healing Space for Youth:** series of youth-led Restorative Justice (RJ) circles about relationships, racism, social justice, and more. Safe space provides young people an opportunity to engage in community building and to learn skills to become RJ leaders in their community. Age 11 and up. (Gift cards available for participation). Second Wednesdays, 4 – 5 pm.

FOR ADULTS

*** eBook Help: Work one-on-one with a librarian to download eBooks. Fridays, 2 -3:30pm. Make appt. online or call 597-5017.

- **Second Saturday Book Club:** 2nd Sat each month, 3-4pm. Phone for details and book selection: 597-5017.
- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. of any prose for on-site reading/ discussion (OK to come empty-handed). 3rd Sat. each month,1 to 5pm; wheelchair-accessible. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyer in the Library:** Free legal info and referral. 1st Tues each month; 6pm-8pm. Sign-up for lottery starting 5pm; lottery at 5:45 pm.
- **Knitting Meet-Up:** Third Sat. each month, 3pm. Bring your knit and crochet project; all levels.
- **Digital Outreach for Writers: free workshop** by The Mystery Writers of America NorCal Chapter. Includes social media, newsletters, websites, and more. Sat, 1/26, 10:30am-1pm.

UPSTAIRS ART GALLERY

- Jan: **Kathy Goss:** watercolor on fabric (by extracting color from plant materials).

Library Hours

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun and Mon; also, Tues, 1/22.

East Bay Booksellers Book/Poetry Readings

FREE and open to the public.

- Thurs, 1/10, 7pm. **Thomas Kohnstamm:** *Lake City*. In conversation with **Broke-Ass Stuart Schuffman.**
- Fri, 9/14, 7pm. **Friday Night Poetry** with **Austin Smith:** *Flyover Country* & **Dora Malech:** *Stet*.
- Sun, 1/27, 3pm. **Poetry Flash**. Contact store for more info.
- Tues,1/29, 7pm. **Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore:** *Sketchtasy*.

East Bay Booksellers, 5433 College Ave. More info abt. the authors, books and other events: 653-9965 or info@ebbooksellers.com.

Book Signing, Tastings, and Conversations

Meet **Nik Sharma,** writer, photographer, recipe developer and weekly SF Chronicle columnist. With 100 intriguing recipes and 270 stunning photographs, his new cookbook, *SEASON*, offers the home cook new ways to explore flavors and incorporate spices. **Taste recipes and ingredients, and get your books signed. Sat, Feb 2, 1 to 3pm.**

Market Hall Foods, 5655 College Ave. More info: rockridgemarkethall.com or 250-6001.

Volunteer at Chabot Space & Science Center

Help families learn science through interactive and hands-on science demonstrations. RSVP for Volunteer Orientation: Sat, Feb 9, 10am to 12:30pm. Volunteers work 8 hours per month (two shifts) to greet visitors, share the activity schedules, work registration, and usher people to theater seats, exhibits and telescopes. For more information and to RSVP for orientation: www.chabotspace.org/adult-volunteers.htm or volunteers@chabotspace.org.

North Oakland Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

Mon. – Fri., 9am to 4:30pm. Programs include: Arts/ crafts; health counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's support groups, computer classes/more.

Seniors age 55+ join for $12 annual dues to get discount and other benefits. Receive "The North Oakland Senior Times" for full schedule of classes/ events, lunch menus, and volunteer opportunities. More info at 597-5085.

Temescal Farmers' Market

Open Sundays, 9am to 1pm (all year). Sample the goods; meet the growers. **Live music. Bring reusable bags.** 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot.

Letters

from page 5

graduates of Oakland Tech and other local high schools to get them. Affordable units need to be available to local shop workers so they don't have to drive.

As someone who worked on The Sims computer game, I know city development is a system; it's not merely building bigger buildings. If housing were a supply problem, Baxter Apartments would be fully rented (only about 4-6 units look occupied). I'm cautious about the new CCA developer's promises. We still don't know fully how or why The Ridge development next to CCA failed. Instead of a vibrant pedestrian center, we have a gravel wasteland, four new fast food chains, and two Starbucks all within two blocks of the High School. Change may be inevitable, but zoning exists to improve the quality of life and to amplify the sustainable pedestrian-oriented values this community was founded on.

I encourage people to reflect on what makes living and working in Rockridge special to them and to participate in the conversation. It's our community. This is not SF or Walnut Creek. Let's help CCA do the right thing.

— Nicole Lazzaro, 26-year Rockridge Small Business Owner

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